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TRANSLATION (HM-650PCT) :

**Translated Text of WO 2004/065,040 A1 (PCT/EP04/00278)
with Amended Pages Incorporated Therein**

COOLING OF ROLLS IN CONTINUOUS CASTING PLANTS

The invention concerns a method for cooling a roller device, which consists of a right bearing housing, a left bearing housing, and a roller, which is rotatably supported by journals in the bearing housings, especially of strand guide rolls, roller table rollers, pinch rolls, support rolls, or driving rolls in continuous casting plants, in which a cooling medium is passed through an axial bore in the roller. The invention also concerns a roller device.

DE 42 07 042 C1 describes a device for the coupling of the cooling medium conveyance of a support or pinch roll, especially for continuous casting plants, which is supported by means of journals in bearing blocks by roller bearings and through which a cooling medium flows through axial bores in the journals. To create a device of this general type with a long service life, which guarantees reliable supply and discharge of the cooling medium with a structurally simple design in a way that allows easy maintenance, it is proposed that each bearing block is sealed by a cover, that the cover has a flow channel, which is

connected at one end to a coolant supply and discharge and opens in the area of the journal bore at the other end, that an elastic socket is provided between the channel mouth of the cover and the bore of the roll, that the head of the socket has a seal, and that the seal is in contact with a sealing surface that is arranged coaxially with the axis of the roll.

EP 0 859 767 B1 describes a rotary passage for the cooling water feed and discharge of a guide roll in a continuous casting plant. The objective of this invention is to create a rotary passage of the aforementioned type, whose seal acting between the cover plate and the journal has a less complicated design than the seal in the previously known rotary passage. In accordance with the invention, this objective is achieved by forming the middle part of the seal as an annular, flange-shaped plastic or rubber diaphragm, whose inner edge is vulcanized on the bushing and whose outer edge is vulcanized on the flange. This rotary passage is characterized by its simple design and compact shape. It can be mounted completely on the end face of the journal. Therefore, it is no longer necessary to enlarge the axial channel of the distribution system in the cooling roll in the front end region of the journal to house parts of the seal therein. The central channel can thus have the same cross

section along its whole length.

Modifications of a rotary passage are described, e.g., in EP 1 125 656 A1 and WO 99/26745.

DE 198 16 577 C1 describes a strand guide device for producing metal strands, especially steel strands, with upper and lower frames divided into segments, which are equipped with rolls, which are connected to a cooling medium supply device by connecting lines. To create a low-maintenance, leakproof connection between the rolls and the cooling medium supply device, which can be easily disconnected and reconnected on site and can be clearly assigned, it is proposed, in accordance with the invention, that the rolls are provided with sockets, whose mouths are horizontally oriented, that the sockets correspond to connecting lines, which are formed as metal tubes, which are connected at one end to the cooling medium supply device and are connected at the other end with a seal that allows leak-free axial and lateral motion between the end of the tube and the socket.

A disadvantage of the previously known designs of a roller device of this type is that the cooling medium is fed and discharged on only one side of the roll. In this regard, the cooling medium is conveyed through an axial bore in the roll to

the opposite side, where it is deflected back in the opposite direction, and conveyed through an annular channel to the outlet side, from which there is a connection to a cooling and storage container.

Proceeding on the basis of this prior art, the objective of the invention is to increase the cooling effect of a roller device of this type and to improve the assembly and disassembly of the individual components.

In accordance with the invention, in a method for cooling a roller device, which consists of a right bearing housing, a left bearing housing, and a roller, which is rotatably supported by journals in the bearing housings, especially of strand guide rolls, roller table rollers, pinch rolls, support rolls, or driving rolls in continuous casting plants, in which a cooling medium is passed through an axial bore in the roller, this objective is achieved by virtue of the fact that the cooling medium additionally cools the bearings mounted in the bearing housings.

In an advantageous modification of the invention, the cooling medium enters the bearing housing of the roller device on one side, passes around the bearing mounted in this bearing housing, then flows through the axial bore in the roller to the

other side, passes around the bearing mounted in the other bearing housing, and is then discharged from the roller device.

In a special modification of the invention, the cooling medium passes from the bearing housing into the rotary passage through a rigid or flexible connector that is flange-mounted on the end face.

In the roller device of the invention, bores are arranged around the bearings mounted in the bearing housings and form a closed cooling channel.

In an advantageous design of the invention, a discharge bore for the cooling medium is arranged on the end face of the bearing housing and is located outside the bearing cover.

It is also advantageous that the rotary passage, which is arranged centrally in the bearing cover, is connected with a discharge bore on the end face of the bearing housing by a rigid or flexible connector.

The invention further provides that the rotary passage is detachably mounted in the bearing cover.

In an advantageous design of the invention, the rotary passage in the bearing covers can compensate linear expansion of the roller.

A specific embodiment of the invention is explained in

greater detail with reference to schematic drawings.

-- Figure 1 shows a roller device in a perspective view.

-- Figure 2 shows a bearing housing in longitudinal section.

-- Figure 3 shows the bearing housing of Figure 2 in a side view (end face).

Figure 1 shows a roller device 1, which consists of a right bearing housing 2, a left bearing housing 3, and a roller 4. Connectors 5, 6, which connect the discharge bores with the rotary passages 7, 8 in the bearing covers 9, 10, are flange-mounted on the end faces. The connector 5, 6 is detached for maintenance or in the event of a problem. The bearing cover 9, 10 with the rotary passage 7, 8 can then be removed from the bearing housing 3, 4. There is also the possibility of removing only the rotary passage 7, 8.

The arrangement of the bores 15 for the closed cavity around a bearing 13 is illustrated in Figure 2. The cavity is formed by several bores 15, which are located at a distance from the outer surfaces of the bearing housing 2. In this regard, the bores merge with each other at an angle or are positioned at right angles to each other. To obtain a closed cavity, individual bores are sealed at the surface of the bearing

housing 2. The cooling medium is introduced into the bearing housing 2 on the underside, flows through the cavity, which is arranged around the bearing 13, and arrives at a discharge bore on the end face of the bearing housing 2. Figure 3 shows the end face of a bearing housing 2. The discharge bore, which is arranged on the right side, next to the bearing cover 9, is connected by a connector 5 with the rotary passage 7. The rotary passage 7 is centrally located in the bearing cover 9.

List of Reference Numbers

- 1 roller device
- 2 bearing housing, right side
- 3 bearing housing, left side
- 4 roller
- 5 connector, right side
- 6 connector, left side
- 7 rotary passage, right side
- 8 rotary passage, left side
- 9 bearing cover, right side
- 10 bearing cover, left side
- 11 roller journal, right side
- 12 roller journal, left side
- 13 bearing, right side
- 14 bearing, left side
- 15 bores

CLAIMS

1. Method for cooling a roller device, which consists of a right bearing housing, a left bearing housing, and a roller, which is rotatably supported by journals in the bearing housings, especially of strand guide rolls, roller table rollers, pinch rolls, support rolls, or driving rolls in continuous casting plants, in which a cooling medium cools the bearings (13, 14) mounted in the bearing housings (2, 3) and passes through an axial bore in the roller, characterized by the fact that the cooling medium enters the bearing housing (2, 3) of the roller device (1) on one side, passes around the bearing (13, 14) mounted in this bearing housing (2, 3), then flows through the axial bore in the roller (4) to the other side, passes around the bearing (13, 14) mounted in the other bearing housing (2, 3), and is then discharged from the roller device (1).

2. Method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the cooling medium passes from the bearing housing (2, 3) into the rotary passage (7, 8) through a rigid or flexible connector (5, 6) that is flange-mounted on the end face.

3. Roller device, which consists of a right bearing housing, a left bearing housing and a roller, which is rotatably supported by journals in the bearing housings, especially of strand guide rolls, roller table rollers, pinch rolls, support rolls or driving rolls in continuous casting plants, in which a cooling medium is passed through an axial bore in the roller, and bores (15), which form a closed cavity, are arranged around the bearings (13, 14) mounted in the bearing housings (2, 3), characterized by the fact that a discharge bore for the cooling medium, which is arranged on the end face of the bearing housing (2, 3), is located next to the bearing cover (9, 10).

4. Roller device in accordance with Claim 3, characterized by the fact that the rotary passage (7, 8), which is arranged centrally in the bearing cover (9, 10), is connected by a rigid or flexible connector (5, 6) with the discharge bore on the end face of the bearing housing (2, 3).

5. Roller device in accordance with Claim 4, characterized by the fact that the rotary passage (7, 8) is detachably connected with the bearing cover (9, 10).

6. Roller device in accordance with any of Claims 3 to 5,
characterized by the fact that the rotary passage (7, 8) in the
bearing cover (9, 10) can compensate linear expansion of the
roller (4).